to the Lok Sabha, the terrorist activities have increased. We know who is behind all these things.

This whole objective is to see that Assembly elections should not be held in a peaceful manner. They chose different places where these shepherds live in remote areas and try to kill the innocent people. Sir, at the same time, we have also strengthened our security forces in the short span of two months or two-and-a-half months. They have killed notorious terrorist leaders. I can name them. Seven people have been killed by our army people. The army is doing a tremendous and very good job. I would like to assure this House that the Government is aware of the fact and the Government is equally anxious to take all steps to curb these terrorist activities to see that the Assembly elections are held in a peaceful manner. Sir, I can give a number of instances as to what action we have taken and my colleague will give you the details about the actions we have taken. The hon. Member has raised an issue pertaining to April 1996. You were good enough to caution that when such matters appear in the press, they should be immediately contradicted. I do agree. And for matters that happened in April 1996 if contradiction has not been made by the then Government, then I cannot be held responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That is true but there was a Government.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: How can I? I was not the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can understand that. I have that much of elementary knowledge. I do not want to blame. In some sections of newspapers it appeared. At that time people heard from ...*(Interruptions)*... We will take it as a word of caution. We will take it as a piece of advice from the Chair.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That Government's Chief is a good friend of the Prime Minister.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: We are prepared to contradict when such issues come in the newspapers by giving the correct version and not to derail the entire matter. But at the same time, the people who were behind our back are not from Nepal, they are not from Bhutan, they are only from Pakistan. It is a cold war. They do not want to allow the Assembly elections to be held peacefully. And the Government is going to take all necessary steps to put down the terrorist activities and see that the elections are held in a peaceful and fair manner. I can give you that much of assurance.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: सर, आतंकवाद की क्षतिपूर्ति ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tara Charan Majumdar, your time is over. I call the next Member.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: He has stated that nine militants were killed. How were they killed? Were they arrested and killed or were they killed in an encounter?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: They were killed in an encounter. Sir, I can give the names, if the Chair permits. I can give the names.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is necessary to give the names.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: सभापति जी, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद! मुझे यही प्रश्न पूछना था कि लोक सभा के चुनाव के बाद क्या उग्रवाद में कुछ कमी आई है और यदि उग्रवाद में कमी आई है तो इसका असेम्बली के चुनाव पर क्या परिणाम होगा, उसका उत्तर प्रधान मंत्री जी ने दे दिया है। इसलिए अब मेरे पास कोई प्रश्न पूछने के लिए नहीं है।

Development programmes in the States bordering Bangladesh and Myanmar

*303. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTAITON be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Border Areas Development Programme has been

taken up in the States bordering Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking up the programme in the States bordering Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The coverage of Border Area Development Programme (BADP) has been extended to border areas of States bordering Bangladesh since 1993-94. It has not been found possible to extend the BADP to other International Borders within available resources with a view not to spread the resources thinly.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people living in the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Myanmar border areas are very poor. They are so much of backwardness in these areas. They have no other means of livelihood; they are only depending upon smuggling, drug trafficking and underground insurgency. Therefore, for their programme, we have to do something.

We have been discussing here about the number of people living below the poverty line in different States. But we have not been discussing about the people in the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Myanmar border areas.

Of course, the Government of India had taken some steps for the development of the Indo-Bangladesh border areas in the year 1993. But due to lack of funds, these have not been properly taken up.

My question is whether the Government would see the reality of the situation in that area and take adequate measures to develop the resources in these areas through different programmes.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we are fully aware of the needs of the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Myanmar border areas. We are aware of the whole question of smuggling, the question of accessibility and the question of development which is consistent with the cultural traditions of the people of these areas. I would, most certainly, bring to the attention of the reconstituted Planning Commission that the points that have been made should be looked into, as urgently as possible.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has said about the development programme that have been taken up in the Indo-Bangladesh border areas, in his answer. But I would like to point out that as far as the Indo-Myanmar border areas are concerned, the problems are more. As hon. Members are aware, these areas—in fact, the entire North-Eastern Region—are insurgency-prone areas. Over and above that, this area is also an important centre, route, for the smuggling and drug trafficking operations. Therefore, I would like to know as to when the Government would start taking measures for the development of the Indo-Myanmar border areas.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: I would like to reiterate that I am fully aware of the question and the feeling which the hon. Member has expressed. In my reply also, I am really referring to the border areas with Myanmar. We have requests from these areas and these would be gone into by the reconstituted Planning Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri T.N. Chaturvedi.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Sir, another question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked your second supplementary.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Another one.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Part (c).

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the proposal given by the State Government in this regard to take up

different measures for the development of these areas.

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the hon. Minister has said that the reconstituted Planning Commission would take into account the cultural traditions as well as the needs and requirements of the people of these border areas. Having said that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his attention had been drawn to the report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Planning and Programme Implementation about inadequacies of border development programmes. Since a study team of the Committee visited some of the North-Eastern States and has brought out the difficulties and constraints of development in that area, would the Minister like to have any evaluation made as to how those difficulties can be removed and correctives provided so that the difficulties in those difficult areas—where the people are not able to go, easily where the people are poor and smuggling, etc., takes place—can be taken care effectively and adequately and not just through assurances only?

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Sir, the Planning Commission is aware of the problems of lack of accessibility, of the problems of unemployment amongst the youth and the need for creating economic opportunities so that the high rate of unemployment amongst the youth can be ameliorated and smuggling and other things are counterbalanced by a development plan. Basically, these questions have to be taken care of in the development plans at the State level. But the Border Area Development Plan, as the hon. Member knows, provides special supplements for employment and training schemes for youth and access questions. In fact, the question of coordination of border roads with development needs was raised by one of the hon. Chief Ministers from the North-Eastern region in the Chief Minister's Conference, and we have agreed to look at that problem in a specific manner as well as the need for involving voluntary organizations to give a sense of security to the citizens of the country in this part of the country, and this will be looked at in considerable detail while finalizing the Five-Year Plan.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: From what the Minister has said, I presume that during the last two months the Prime Minister has taken a decision to complete the work of the reconstitution of the Planning Commission. Since all the Members are supposed to have resigned, when will the exercise of reconstitution be completed? Otherwise the Minister's reply is in a vacuum.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, the Planning Commission is already reconstituted. The names will be announced today itself.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Thank you.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is proposing to open up more border markets in the India-Mayanmar border as well as the India-Bangladesh border to check the prevailing smuggling of different goods in that area?

SHRI YOGINDRA K. ALAGH: Sir, the accessibility of the border talukas is an important question, and roads and markets are an important part of the examination that has to be done.

Demand and Supply of Power in Punjab

*304. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of power and supply position in Punjab;

(b) to what extent the requirement of power is being met by thermal sources;